



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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1 November 2017

Dear members of the Consultative Group,

On behalf of the Coordination Committee of Special procedures, I have the pleasure of writing to you in connection to the selection of mandate holders, in particular the selection of a new Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity following the resignation of the current mandate holder.

The high quality of mandate holders is crucial to ensure the effectiveness and credibility of the system of special procedures. Taking the opportunity laid down in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 51, which says that “the Consultative Group should take into account, as appropriate, the views of stakeholders, including the current or outgoing mandate-holders, in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills, and other relevant requirements for each mandate”, I invited the outgoing mandate holder to provide information on the skills they consider essential for the new mandate holders to discharge the mandate.

I am therefore pleased to share with you the contribution received from the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (annex I).

I trust that you will find these suggestions useful and I would be happy to discuss this matter further with you should you find it necessary. As indicated earlier, special procedures mandate holders have decided that these contributions should be made publicly available as a way to enhance transparency. This letter will therefore be posted on the public website of special procedures. I wish you success in your deliberations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Devandas'.

Catalina Devandas Aguilar
Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures

cc: H.E. Mr. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli
President of the Human Rights Council

Annex I

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

“Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, which provides that “the consultative group should take into account, as appropriate, the views of stakeholders, including the current or outgoing mandate-holders, in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills, and other relevant requirements for each mandate”, I am honoured to share with you my considerations for the candidates for the mandate of the Independent Expert on the protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Considerations for a candidate could include:

1. Vision and mission to respond to the mandate
2. Independence of role, particularly from the executive branch of Government
3. Integrity and principled commitment
4. Track record as part of expertise to respond to the mandate
5. Ability to write reports (to some extent)
6. Ability to communicate with range of stakeholders
7. Bridge builder
8. Advocate on behalf of victims
9. Time availability to commit to the mandate
10. Capacity to work pro bono
11. Capacity to interlink with the United Nations system (at least to cooperate with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)
12. Degree of patience and flexibility.”